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FROM: La Paz

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: 435, October 23, 4 p.m.

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EMBTET 431

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I have pressed GOB to recognize its obligations in hemispheric crisis both to President and Foreign Minister. In discussions today with Foreign Minister he produced following text communication which if directed to him by Secretary would result in immediate participation OAS meetings with minimum friction Bolivian public opinion.

"In the informal meeting of American Foreign Ministers held in Washington October 2 and 3 you stated that Bolivia was deeply conscious of its obligations of solidarity with all its sister nations of the continent.

In this emergency, when the existence of bases in Cuba for missiles whose range threatens the major portion of the continent there is presented without doubt, in accordance with the charter of the OAS and the treaties in force between the nations of the hemisphere, a question of solidarity which makes desirable the attendance of Bolivia at the meetings where this emergency will be treated.

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-2- 435, October 23, 4 p.m. from La Paz

(S)(1) [I would like to let you know, furthermore, that the United States, for its part, will do all that may be possible to achieve a just and prompt solution to the problem that gave rise to Bolivia's non-attendance at the meetings of the Organization of American States."

Foreign Minister commented that Department may wish to revise text, particularly last paragraph, to conform its position as member informal OAS group on Lauca issue and he would understand need for such modifications.

As alternative suggested chairman COAS might send message with appropriate modifications text, such as substituting OAS for United States in last paragraph.

Has no objection chairman COAS making reference informal MFM.

Foreign Minister did not view last paragraph as quid pro quo and said Chile itself would not object to "just and prompt solution" to Lauca issue. Viewed last paragraph as way to permit GOB abandon hard position suspension relations OAS, without commitments on Lauca issue as well as pacify public opinion here.

Would appreciate Department's response by return cable Foreign Minister's suggestions. Message sent by Secretary could probably be despatched more quickly than similar one by chairman COAS.

STEPHANSKY

LTR/14

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